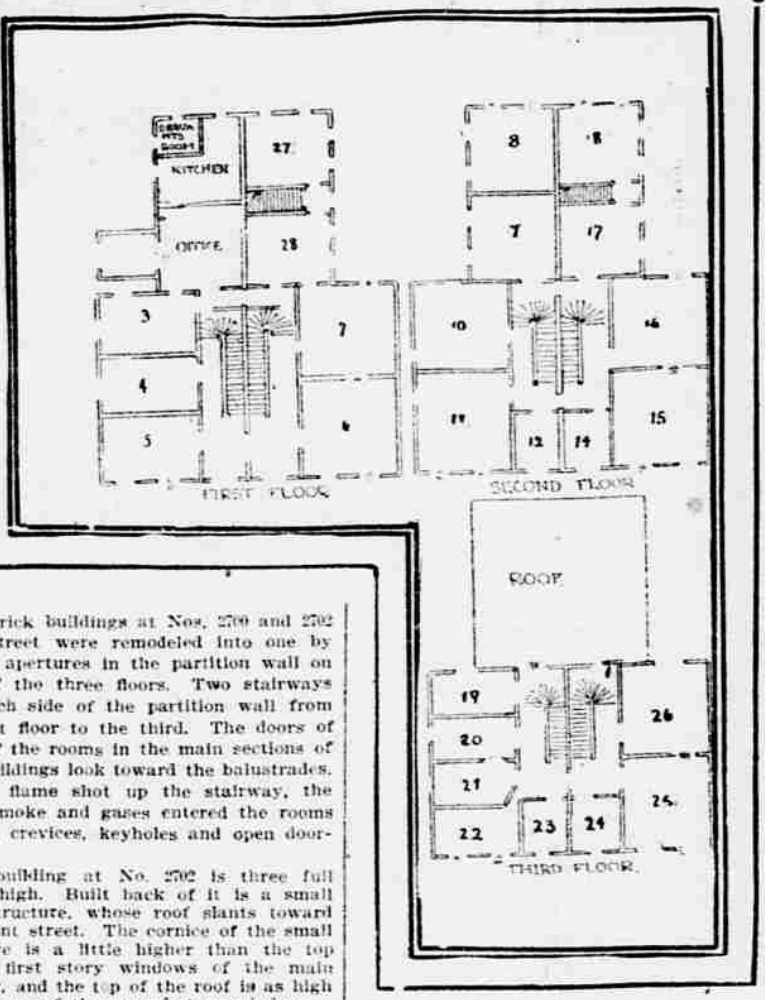


DIAGRAM OF EMPIRE HOTEL.



The brick buildings at Nos. 250 and 252 Olive street were remodeled into one by cutting apertures in the partition wall on each of the three floors. Two stairways hung each side of the partition wall from the first floor to the third. The doors of most of the rooms in the main sections of both buildings look toward the balconies. As the flames shot up the stairway, the dense smoke and gases entered the rooms through crevices, keyholes and open doorways.

The building at No. 252 is three full stories high. It has a brick structure, whose roof plants toward Beaumont street. The corner of the small structure is a little higher than the top of the main building. The fire started in the main building, and the top of the roof is as high as the tops of the second-story windows. The main section of No. 252 is also three stories high. The brick addition in the rear of it is two stories high, its roof slanting westward from the side of the third-story windows of the main building. Joseph Godfrey, who occupied the third-story room at No. 252, escaped by jumping from the roof of the annex to No. 250 and from there to the roof of the one-story structure back of No. 250. Lizzie Harris, the negro chambermaid, was suffocated in a little back room at the rear door of the little building back of No. 250.

HISTORY OF ST. LOUIS FIRES IN WHICH LIVES WERE LOST.

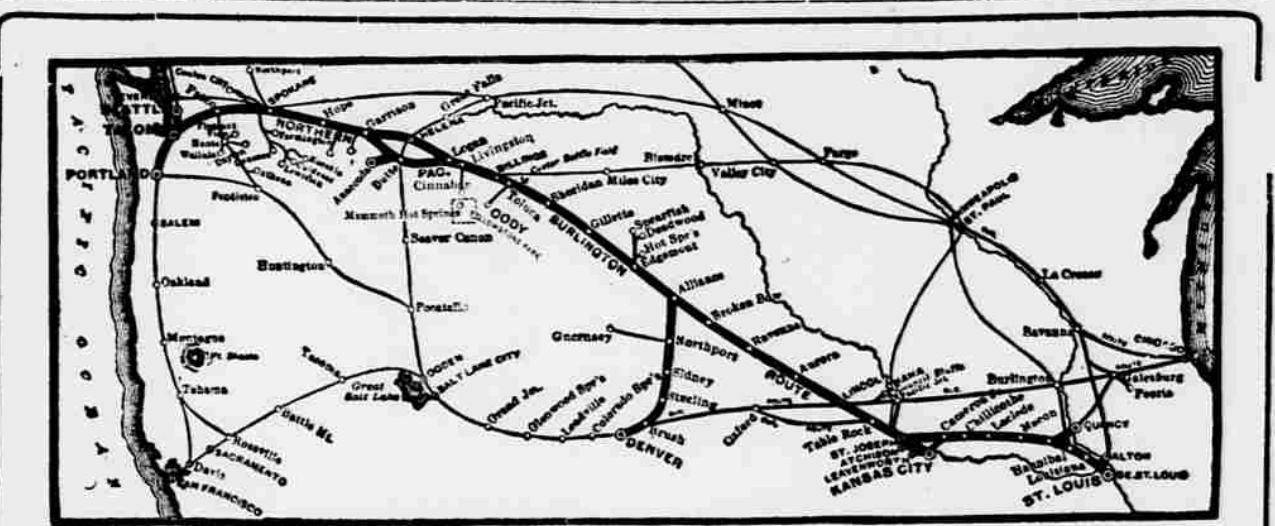
Loss of Life in Empire Hotel Exceeded Only by Pacific Hotel Fire in 1858 and Southern Hotel Disaster in 1877—Investigation Shows Many Lives Sacrificed Through Careless Action.

Eighteen persons have lost their lives in burning buildings in St. Louis within the last week. The loss of life occurred in two fires, that of the American Tent and Awning Company building, No. 250 and 252 Olive street, last Tuesday, when seven firemen were crushed beneath crumbling walls, and the Empire Hotel, Olive and Beaumont streets, where eleven people were killed.

BODIES TAKEN TO THE MORGUE WERE READILY IDENTIFIED.

Relatives of the Dead and Throng of Morbidly Curious Persons Crowded the Big Exhibition Room at the Morgue When Deputy Coroner Fitzsimmons Opened Preliminary Investigation—Formal Inquest to Be Held To-Morrow.

The ten bodies taken to the morgue had been identified by 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon. After that time the public was excluded from the exhibition room. From early in the morning great crowds of the anxious and the curious gathered around the bodies of the dead, and it was with much difficulty that testimony for identification was taken.



LOW SETTLERS' RATES NORTHWEST

The Burlington makes very low one-way Settlers' rates every day during March and April, 1902, to the Far Northwest—Puget Sound, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Northern Wyoming. The map shows the route of "The Burlington-Northern Pacific Express," the great daily train which runs 1,800 miles through the heart of the Louisiana Purchase to the Rockies, and 1,000 miles beyond through the "Oregon country," to Puget Sound and Portland. It carries all classes of through equipment over a route from 80 to 400 miles and many hours the shortest to the Upper Northwest region.

Tickets, Berths, Information at City Ticket Office, S. W. Corner Broadway and Olive Street.

BAND WAS EJECTED FROM MANN SCHOOL

Music at Dedication Exercises Sunday Was Prohibited by Board of Education. Four big policemen ejected a band of music from the new Horace Mann School yesterday and prohibited the carrying out of the music features of the programme that had been provided by the patrons at the opening of the new building. The Board of Education objected to the band playing in the building on Sunday and the policemen acted upon orders from that body.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUNERAL OF EMPIRE HOTEL VICTIMS.

Arrangements for the funeral of the persons who met death in the fire in the Empire Hotel yesterday morning have almost all been made. The Hamilton-Brown Shoe Company instructed the Alexander undertaking establishment to forward the body of R. F. Woodley to his mother in Birmingham, N. Y., and it will be shipped to-night. The body of George W. Thompson, who died in Indianapolis, will be sent to that city to-day. The body of G. W. Thompson, who died in Indianapolis, will be sent to that city to-day. The body of G. W. Thompson, who died in Indianapolis, will be sent to that city to-day.

COATING OF ICE ON HOTEL—INCIDENTS OF THE FIRE.

A squad of police, under Sergeant Berry, stood guard at the scene of the conflagration all day yesterday, keeping the crowd of sightseers back of the ropes that had been stretched in front and on the side of the buildings. Trucks and vehicles belonging to the dead and the survivors were conveyed to the Eighth District Police Station, where they will be retained until the owners or their friends call for them.

CLAMBERED OVER ROOF IN HIS NIGHT CLOTHES.

Joseph Godfrey, proprietor of a livery stable in the rear of the Empire Hotel, jumped from a rear window on the third floor and escaped injury. In his night clothes he clambered over a snow-covered roof, dropped to the ground and ran back to take refuge in his stable.

TRANSIT CONDUCTORS LEAP FROM SECOND STORY.

The escape of two Transit Company conductors, C. W. Park and J. Fisher, of the second floor of the hotel, after the fire was well advanced, was one of the most peculiar of the many exciting episodes of the catastrophe. Almost smothered by smoke, the men lay as if in a partial trance in their beds until the fire ate through their door and roused them to a full sense of their awful peril.

was given us by persons of the neighborhood. I lost all my effects. Every man who did not make a dash for liberty was smothered. It was not a fire, it was a massacre.

PORTER HAS HAIR-PRETTY ESCAPE FROM BURNING HOTEL.

Henry Robinson Was Asleep When Awakened by Pain in His Lungs—Made Futile Effort to Arouse Lizzie Harris—Cannot Explain Origin of the Blaze.

Henry Robinson, a negro, of No. 1315 Linden street, the night porter, was asleep in the office when aroused by pain in his lungs, due to the smoke with which the room was filled. "I was asleep about an hour before the fire aroused me," said Robinson. "About 1 o'clock two men came to the hotel and asked for a room. One of the men was intoxicated and I helped him to ascend the stairs and assign him to room No. 10 on the third floor. His companion left the house after taking off the intoxicated man's shoes. The latter stretched himself across the bed without removing any of his clothing. Before I let him he asked for a drink of water, which I brought him, and I then came downstairs. Looking all the floors so that any one desiring to enter the place would be obliged to ring the bell and wake me, I drew a comforter around me and went to sleep in the chair.

WALTER JOHNSON LEAPS FROM BUILDING IN NICK OF TIME.

Walter Johnson, 29 years old, a cutter in the employ of the Hamilton-Brown Shoe Company, rooming with B. F. Woodley, who was burned to death by the fire in the building, then on the third floor. Despite the fact that both his legs are broken, and he is burned over a large part of his body, he feels satisfied that he escaped with his life. Johnson leaped from the window to the pavement below, a distance of about thirty feet. He said: "When I was aroused by the cry of fire my room was so full of smoke that I could scarcely see across it. For a second I was stupefied, and then I leaped from the bed. Woodley at the same time opened the door into the hall, and smoke and flames burst in. It was like a blast from the open door of a furnace.

JUMPED FROM WINDOW IN THEIR NIGHT CLOTHES.

G. G. McConnell, John Shannon and George Sedlmir, clerks, who occupied room No. 8 on the first floor, escaped through a window on the west side of the hotel, abandoning all their effects. All confirmed the report of other sufferers that the fire started in the rear of the main building, just over the furnace, which was almost directly below their room. McConnell was the first to awake. He thought at first that some one was making a noise in the hall, and went to investigate. He reached the door, and found the odor of smoke, and roused his comrades before opening the door.

HOTEL WAS POPULAR WITH MEDICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS.

The Empire Hotel was a popular resort for the students of the Missouri Medical College. At the time of the fire four students were rooming there. They were: Harry Cline of Marion, Ill.; George Lane of Rich Hill, Mo.; Harry L. Thompson of Nashville, Ill.; and Gabriel Sturgeon of Columbia, Mo., of the St. Louis Dental College.

FORMER FIREMAN DESCRIBES THE FIRE'S START AND END.

BY E. G. CORNISH. Ex-Fireman, Who Witnessed the Fire. The apparent delay of the Fire Department in reaching the Empire Hotel was unusual for the reason no one could at first locate a fire-alarm box. The first engine arrived at 3:28. The first cry of fire was given at 3:28. I had been playing pool downtown. I waited in The Republic counting-room for the 2:30 owl car on the Olive street line. The car was about five minutes late, possibly a trifle more. It was probably 2:30 o'clock when I left the car immediately in front of the Empire Hotel, and went to my room at No. 252 Olive street. At that time all seemed to be as it should. I undressed rapidly, my room being rather chilly. I could not have consumed more than ten minutes in getting to bed. Just as I was about to draw the coverlet up about me I heard a cry of fire. For a moment I gave no heed, fancying it to have come from some merry-maker. But it was repeated. I then ran to the window, and could see smoke and some flame emanating from the windows and front door of the hotel diagonally across the street.